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ABSTRACT

Each year, the journal "Social Education" contains an annotated bibliography of notable children's trade books in the field of social studies, evaluated and selected by the Book Review Subcommittee of the National Council for the Social Studies-Children's Book Council Joint Committee. This second compilation represents a two-year compilation (1983-1984) of this journal feature. In general, the nearly 200 books selected for this bibliography are written primarily for children in grades K-8, emphasize human relations, present an original theme or fresh slant on a traditional topic, are highly readable, and when appropriate include maps and illustrations. All titles were published in the United States in 1983 and 1984. The categories under which the books are listed are (1) United States history, culture, and life; (2) world history and culture; (3) biographies and autobiographical accounts; (4) folktales, legends, poetry, graphic arts, and storytelling; (5) contemporary interests, opportunities, and controversies, and (6) understanding oneself and others. (LH)

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NOTABLE CHILDREN'S TRADE BOOKS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL STUDIES

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY COMPILED FROM ISSUES OF THE JOURNAL "SOCIAL EDUCATION," 1984-1985

Compiled by:
ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education
Boulder, Colorado 80302

SO 016 585

Developed by the National Council for the Social Studies, Washington, DC.

Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies

THE BOOKS FOR 1983 which appear in this annual annotated bibliography were evaluated and selected by the Book Review Subcommittee of the National Council for the Social Studies-Children's Book Council Joint Committee. In general, books selected for this bibliography: (1) are written primarily for children in grades K–8; (2) emphasize human relations; (3) present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic; (4) are highly readable; and, when appropriate (5) include maps and illustrations. All titles were published in the United States in 1983. Reading levels are indicated as P = Primary; I = Intermediate; A = Advanced. These levels are general guidelines only and are not meant to be prescriptive. Prices were accurate as of January 1984, but are subject to change. Information on paper editions is given when known. When the symbol "F" follows a paper edition, this indicates it is forthcoming. Publishers' names appear in abbreviated form; complete names and addresses are available in such standard reference works as *Literary Market Place* (Bowker). International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) are included; an ISBN followed by an asterisk (*) refers to a publisher's library-bound edition of the title; a regular trade edition may also be available. Books that are appropriate for more than one category have been placed where their usefulness in social education appears greatest.

Members of the Book Review Subcommittee are Walter H. Klar, Chairperson (Social Studies Education, Framingham State College, MA); Ruth Anderson (Librarian, Student, Holistic Education, Northboro, MA); Jane Brem (Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Social Studies Education, University of Washington, Seattle); Janice Cable (Library Media Specialist and Consultant, Oak Bluffs, MA); Laurence I. Seidman (Folksongs in the Classroom, C.W. Post Center, Long Island University, NY); Jeanette L. Sidley (Library Media Specialist and Consultant, Brooklyn, NY); Elizabeth Stoessl (Arlington County, VA, Department of Libraries); Shirley Wilton (Professor of Children's Literature, Ocean County College, NJ); and Judith S. Wooster (Bureau of Social Studies Education, New York State Education Department, Albany, NY). Their initials appear at the end of the annotations they have written.

Any of the 1983 Children's Book Week posters used to illustrate this annotated bibliography are available directly from the Children's Book Council, official sponsor of Book Week. Price and ordering information are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope to CBC, Attn: Current Brochure, 67 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003.

United States History, Culture and Life

Anno's U.S.A. Mitsumasa Anno. Ill. by the author. Philomel. 48 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-399-20974-3. Paper ed., Philomel (F). ISBN 0-399-2160-1. (P, I & A). Mitsumasa Anno, in his blue cap and suit and in the company of his horse, explores the U.S.A. He journeys from West to East through the countryside and the cities. He combines his love of nature, history, and culture with his unique eye for detail and his talent for visually sharing his discoveries. JC

The Best Town in the World. Byrd Baylor. Ill. by Ronald Himler. Scribner. 32 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-684-18035-9. (I & A). Life in a small country town in the Texas hills around the turn of the century is poetically described and glowingly illustrated. The town doesn't seem different from any other town of that era, except that there everything was the best. And so is this book. JC

Beyond the Divide. Kathryn Lasky. Macmillan. 264 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-02-751670-9. Paper ed., Dell (F). (I & A). When her father is shunned by their Amish community, Meribah Simon leaves with him to join the 1849 Gold Rush. As the journey west grows more desperate, the two are abandoned by their fellow passengers. Her father dies, but Meribah wins her struggle for survival. Details in this engrossing novel are based upon journals of the period; author's note provides additional background. ES

Cecelia and the Blue Mountain Boy. Ellen Harvey Showell. Ill. by Margot Tomes. Lothrop. 30 pp. $9.50. ISBN 0-688-01514-X. (I). Charming and uplifting story of the Appalachian countryside and Cecelia, who brings music and dance to the solemn town of Chester. Wonderful black and white illustrations interspersed with silhouettes accompany the text. RA

Charlie's House. Clyde Robert Bulla. Ill. by Arthur Dorros. Crowell/Harper. 96 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-690-04260-4.* (P & I). This skillfully written story of twelve-year-old Charlie Brig gives insights into a child's role in the 18th century in both England and New World America. Independent and outspoken, Charlie leaves his family in England and encounters danger and adventure as an indentured servant and later as a runaway. Authentic historic reading. JSW

Children of the Wild West. Russell Freedman. Ill. with photographs. Clarion. 112 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-89919-143-6. (I & A). Freedman took considerable effort to seek out photographs to complement the highly readable text, a picture of life in the American West from 1840 to the early 1900s. Excellent addition to any curriculum dealing with the westward movement. WHK

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The Cranberry Book. Elizabeth Gemming. Ill. with prints and photographs. Coward-McCann. 64 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-698-20568-5. (I). The cranberry in the American experience from pre-Pilgrim to its cultivation in the Northwest today. Period drawings, photographs, maps, and prints contribute greatly to this rewarding book. Recipes and a list of three cranberry places and of cranberry varieties are included as appendices. Index. JC

Doll Hospital. Joshua Horwitz. Photographs by the author. Pantheon. 56 pp. $10.99. ISBN 0-394-95332-0. (I & A). Black and white photographs document the work of a New York doll doctor, Irving Chais, as he lovingly and painstakingly restores both "beloved toys" and precious antiques. The handsome book helps readers to understand and appreciate true craftsmanship. ES

Firehouse. Bernard Wolf. Photographs by the author. Morrow. 80 pp. $8.59. ISBN 0-688-01735-5.* (I & A). A detailed documentary of a typical firehouse in New York City. Unusual, skillful photography and an authoritative text introduce a big city firefighter's work. A handsome, substantial title. JLS

Fireworks, Picnics, and Flags: The Story of the Fourth of July Symbols. James Cross Giblin. Ill. by Ursula Arndt. Clarion. 96 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-89919-146-0. Paper ed., Clarion. $3.95. ISBN 0-89919-174-6. (I). Using such United States symbols as "Uncle Sam," "The Liberty Bell," etc., this book helps readers to learn about this country's history and to explore how nations develop an identity. A readable look at our historic birthday. JSW

Goodbye, My Island. Jean Rogers. Ill. by Rie Munoz. Greenwillow. 96 pp. $8.59. ISBN 0-688-01965-X.* (I). A poignant story of the last exodus of the King Island Eskimos from their homeland. Despite the promise of a bright future in Nome, twelve-year-old Esther Atoolik feels regret and frustration as she leaves her beloved island. A definitive novel about Eskimo life after World War II. JLS

Magazine: Behind the Scenes at *Sports Illustrated*. William Jaspersohn. Photographs by the author. Little, Brown. 128 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-316-45815-5. (I & A). *Sports Illustrated*, from a weekly editorial meeting until the magazine appears on the newsstand. A definitive view of the world of weekly magazine publishing. Even the Acknowledgments offer valuable insights and information. Excellent use as career guidance. JC

Mill. David Macaulay. Ill. by the author. Houghton. 128 pp. $14.95. ISBN 0-395-34830-7. (I & A). As with his previous books, David Macaulay has distinguished himself through his magnificent illustrations, highly readable text and superb design. Here he presents mills as they would have looked in New England in the 1800s. Useful for any study of both pre- and post-industrial works in the still-young country. WHK

A New England Village. Eva Deutsch Costabel. Ill. by the author. Atheneum. 48 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-689-30972-4. (P & I). The flavor of a New England village of the 19th century is captured in simple text with black and white drawings depicting rural life. The people, buildings, schools, and homes are described, giving the reader a real sense of the times. RA

The New Federalism: States' Rights in American History. Stephen Goode. Watts. 160 pp. $9.90. ISBN 0-531-04501-3. (A). This examination of a continuing political debate expresses the views of proponents and critics of federalism and traces its history, examining Hamilton, Marshall, Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt—proponents of a vigorous national government—as well as Jefferson, Burke, and Reagan, who have looked to the states to counterbalance national authority. WHK

The Railroad Book. E. Boyd Smith. Ill. by the author. Houghton. 56 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-395-34832-3. (P, I & A). The great romance and adventure of trains and railroads are shared through experiences of two children in this book, first published in 1913 and here presented in a handsome new edition. There is an abundance of information in the beautifully detailed illustrations and the expressive text. It offers a grand view of America and American life in the early twentieth century. *The Railroad Book* is notable also because it was created by a notable turn-of-the-century American illustrator. JC

Two-color streamer by Dirk Zimmer, 22" × 6".

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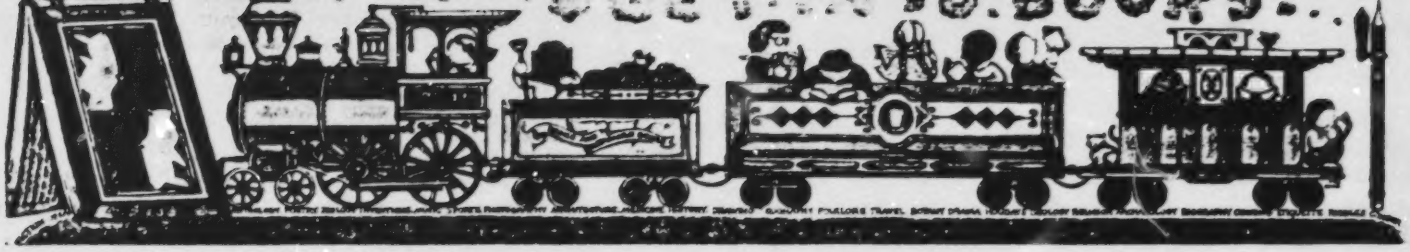

Full color linaze by Eve Rice, 32" x 8"

The Spice of America. June Swanson. Ill. by Priscilla Kiedrowski. Carolrhoda. 96 pp. $7.95. ISBN 0-87614-252-8.* (I). To keep the "meat and potatoes of a country's story" interesting, spices must be added. From America's past, the author has selected fifteen stories of an unusual, interesting, or quirky nature. Included are stories about how the doughnut got (and didn't get) its hole, how we got an official Thanksgiving Day, and how Raggedy Ann became popular. JSW

Sugaring Time. Kathryn Lasky. Photographs by Christopher G. Knight. Macmillan. 64 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-02-751680-6. (P, I & A). Beautiful black and white photographs enhance an engaging, thoughtful text; and readers learn how a Vermont family carries on the tradition of gathering sap for boiling into syrup. 1984 Newbery Honor title. WHK

The Town That Moved. Mary Jane Finsand. Ill. by Reg Sandland. Carolrhoda. 48 pp. $6.95. ISBN 0-87614-200-5. (P & I). A true story of the town of Hibbing, Minnesota, whose residents found they had built their homes, stores, and churches on top of a rich Mesabi Range iron ore deposit. Their creative solution to the problem offers a lively slice of history for the young reader. JSW

War Comes to Willy Freeman. James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier. Delacorte. 192 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-440-09642-1. Paper ed., Dell (F). (I & A). With a marvelous sense of setting and memorable characters, the Colliers weave a gripping tale of survival and values in America during the Revolutionary War. Willy forcefully questions a Black's loyalty as she is threatened with being returned to slavery after her patriot father is killed by the British. WHK

Willie Bea and the Time the Martians Landed. Virginia Hamilton. Greenwillow. 224 pp. $11.50. ISBN 0-688-02390-8. (I & A). Set in Ohio in 1938, this is the story of Willie Bea and her family, who have gathered for a festive Sunday dinner. Willie Bea and her cousins are anticipating Halloween trick or treating, but the evening takes an unexpected turn as Orson Welles' radio broadcast "War of the Worlds" terrifies Willie Bea's family. A wonderful portrayal of a warm, extended black family. RA

World History and Culture

Canada's Kids. Sabra Holbrook. Ill. with photographs; illustrated map by Richard Rosenblum. Atheneum. 176 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-689-31002-1. (I & A). An up-to-date book about the young people of Canada; their schooling, hobbies, games, families, and dreams for the future. The author gives short biographies of young people from various backgrounds and nationalities in rural, urban, and suburban settings, and in Eskimo and Indian villages. Their stories bring the nation alive and help our students relate to their Canadian peers. LIS

Ghost Vision. Jeanie Kortum. Ill. by Dugald Stermer. Sierra Club/Pantheon. 152 pp. $10.99. ISBN 0-394-96190-0.* (I). Panipaq, a 12-year-old Eskimo boy, is frightened by his strange dreams and visions. Old Inuk, the tribal leader, convinces Panipaq that he has special powers, and that the boy's dreams, of Inuit teachings and happenings, are warnings to his people, who have strayed too far from the "old ways." This novel successfully mixes the supernatural with an excellent portrayal of everyday life among the Inuit people of Greenland. ES

The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Blériot July 25, 1909. Alice and Martin Provensen. Ill. by the authors. Viking. 40 pp. $13.95. ISBN 0-670-34259-9. (P & I). While Papa Blériot devises plane after unsuccessful plane, his patient family watches, waits, and finally cheers his flight across the English channel in 1909. The Provensens' dashing full-page pictures tell the story of an early milestone in the history of flight. Caldecott Medal. SW

The Golden Path: The Lure of Gold Through History. Richard B. Lyttle. Ill. by the author. Atheneum. 176 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-689-31006-4. (I & A). Fascinating story of the social, political, and economic impact of gold on cultures from early times to the present. JSW

A Hanging at Tyburn. Gilbert B. Cross. Atheneum. 252 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-689-31007-2. (I & A). A compelling fictional work with a historical reference. Story of a young orphan's trials as a traveling actor, miner, and duke's accounts keeper during the turmoil of building the first cross-country canal in England in the mid-eighteenth century gives insight into the social structure of England in the 1750s. A well-told tale filled with intrigue and suspense. JSW

The Inheritance. Claudia Von Canon. Houghton. 224 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-395-33891-3. (A). An excellent novel set in Spain at the time of the Inquisition brings a little-known period of history to life. Miguel de Roxas comes home from medical school in Padua to claim his father's estate, only to find himself closely watched by the forces of the Inquisition. He learns that his father had killed himself rather than submit to the tortures of the inquisitors who suspected him of having helped Jewish townspeople. Miguel has to choose for himself whether to stay and bow to the Inquisition or to flee for his freedom back to Padua. LIS

Jafta. Hugh Lewin. Ill. by Lisa Kopper. Carolrhoda. 24 pp. $7.95. ISBN 0-87614-207-2.* (P). A small South African child introduces his world in this book by comparing his feelings to those of various indigenous animals. Also recommended are three companion volumes by Hugh Lewin, *Jafta and the Wedding*, ISBN 0-87614-210-2*; *Jafta's Father*, ISBN 0-87614-209-9*; and *Jafta's Mother*, ISBN 0-87614-208-0.* In each, universal concepts—family ties, celebrations, separation from a parent—provide the focus. Striking brown-toned illustrations. The last three titles explain unfamiliar words. ES

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The Long March: Red China under Chairman Mao. Don Lawson. Ill. with photographs. Crowell/Harper. 192 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-690-04272-8.* (I & A). Superb account of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and his dramatic and historic long march and its decades-long aftermath. The book gives a clear and most readable history of modern China. Groupings of photographs, a short bibliography, and a comprehensive index add to the value of this outstanding book. RA

The Luttrell Village: Country Life in the Middle Ages. Sheila Sancha. Ill. by the author. Crowell/Harper. 64 pp. $12.89. ISBN 0-690-04324-4.* (I & A). Magnificent full-page illustrations—many with helpful captions for identifying unfamiliar objects—present a year in a Lincolnshire village, from plowing and sowing through harvesting. Fine reconstruction through intelligent text and pictures. Social life and customs in England during the 14th century. Good Glossary. WHK

A Medieval Feast. Aliki. Ill. by the author. Crowell/Harper. 32 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-690-04246-9.* (I). The king comes, and a day-long feast is held at the castle. Foods of every description are carried across the pages of this brightly colored picture book, giving the reader a taste of medieval pomp and pageantry. Some of the pages have the look of illuminated manuscripts, others of tapestries. SW

The New Japan. Edward F. Dreyer, Jr., and Shan Finney. Ill. with photographs. 128 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-531-04665-6. (A). Since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, life in Japan has been transformed. This very readable book examines the "new" Japan, its institutions, and its people and how they live. The author shows the amalgam of past and present. The book will help students to understand current events and form a global perspective. JC

Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom. Katherine Paterson. Lodestar/Dutton. 240 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-525-66911. Paper ed., Avon (F). (A). A novel set in China during the Taiping Rebellion in the 1850s. Wang Lee, a young peasant, joins a secret, anti-Manchu, God-worshipping society, but becomes disillusioned with the violence and murder done in the name of "Heavenly Peace." An excellent book to use when contemporary cults and "causes" are discussed. ES

Red Bird of Ireland. Sondra Gordon Langford. McElderry/Atheneum. 192 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-689-50270-2. (I & A). Beautifully told story of Aderyn and her family and neighbors who live through a difficult year in Ireland in 1846. Aderyn's father is falsely accused of setting fire to the landlord's barns and flees to the New World, leaving Aderyn and her mother to cope until he can send for them. The flavor of Ireland, its customs, people, and religious life are wonderfully captured, as are the suffering and spirit of the people. RA

Red Star and Green Dragon: Looking at New China. Lila Perl. Ill. by the author and others. Morrow. 144 pp. $9.50. ISBN 0-688-01721-5. (A). A concise summary of the history of China leads to a description of China today, from the country provinces to its great cities. Candid photographs, taken for the most part by the author, show ordinary people working, touring, staring curiously at the camera. Readable and relevant. SW

Biography, Autobiography

Bicycle Rider. Mary Scioscia. Ill. by Ed Young. Harper. 48 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-06-025223-5.* (P). A fictionalized biography of the early years of Marshall Taylor, who became the fastest bicycle rider in the world in his racing days 1896–1910, and the first black person to participate in U.S. bicycle races that were integrated. The sensitive text will give primary readers a provocative picture of determination and courage. JLS

A Deaf Child Listened: Thomas Gallaudet, Pioneer in American Education. Anne E. Neimark. Morrow. 128 pp. $8.50. ISBN 0-688-01719-3. (I & A). This well-written biography details the career of Thomas Gallaudet, a pioneer in education for the deaf and founder of the American School for the Deaf. A moving tribute to a man who fought against great social, economic, and political odds to champion the rights of a group of people. JSW

The Double Life of Pocahontas. Jean Fritz. Ill. by Ed Young. Putnam. 96 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-399-21016-4. (I & A). Examining the established myth of Pocahontas, this book reviews the life of the famous American Indian princess and the roles she played in two different cultures—the world of her Indian village and the world of the English colonists. Notes, bibliography, and index. JB

Two color streamer by Fred Winkowski, 22" × 6".

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From the Hills of Georgia: An Autobiography in Paintings. Mattie Lou O'Kelley. Ill. with paintings by the author. Atlantic-Little, Brown. 32 pp. $14.95. ISBN 0-316-63800-5. (P & I). Twenty eight vibrant paintings by the folk painter Mattie Lou O'Kelley present a visual autobiography of the farm where she grew up. Pictorial representations of rural Georgia in the early part of the 20th century. WHK

I, Christopher Columbus. Lisl Weil. Ill. by the author. Atheneum. 48 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-689-30965-7. (P). Very clear, first-person account of the voyages and explorations of Christopher Columbus. The exploitation of the originally friendly Indians is emphasized, and the realization that what Columbus thought to be the Far East was the North American continent is developed well. Readable text and many accessible illustrations with a light touch. RA

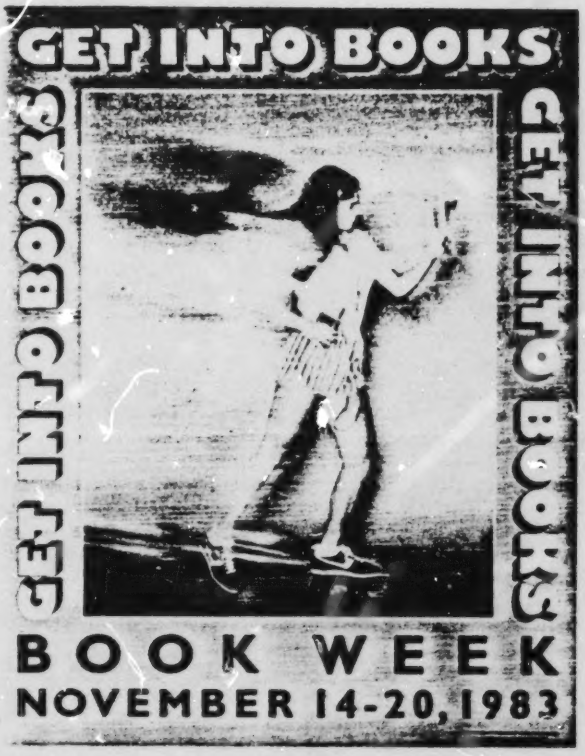
Margaret Mead. Jacqueline Ludel. Ill. with photographs. Watts. 128 pp. $8.90. ISBN 0-531-04590-0. (A). Margaret Mead is presented as a scientist and humanitarian. Well-chosen quotes from Mead's work help to convey her contributions to the understanding of cultures. Another recommended title is *V. I. Lenin* by Elyse Topalian, ISBN 0-531-04589-7. Both books are part of the Impact Biography series. The series is well-researched; because of its reading level, titles would be of appeal to advanced readers. JSW

The Mill Girls: Lucy Larcom, Harriet Hanson Robinson and Sarah G. Bagley. Bernice Selden. Ill. with prints and photographs. Atheneum. 200 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-689-31005-6. (A). Through reading about three remarkable women, one learns a great deal about life at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in New England, and its impact on women and on society in general. Explores issues related to women leaving home to seek work, satisfaction, and self-awareness. WHK

Queen Eleanor: Independent Spirit of the Medieval World. Polly Schoyer Brooks. Lippincott/Harper. 192 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-397-31995-9.* (I). Well-written biography of Eleanor of Aquitaine, queen of France and later queen of England. Eleanor's nature was reflected in her support of music, poetry, and literature and of the concepts of courtly love and chivalry. Eleanor, whose reigns spanned sixty-seven years, emerges as a remarkable woman in this highly readable biography. Excellent index. RA

Squanto and the First Thanksgiving. Joyce K. Kessel. Ill. by Lisa Donze. Carolrhoda. 48 pp. $6.95. ISBN 0-87614-199-8. (P). An excellent book explaining the history of Thanksgiving. Concise facts are given about Squanto, the last living Patuxet Indian and former slave, who saved the lives of the last fifty-five Pilgrims by teaching them how to survive in the harsh Massachusetts winter, giving them a reason for giving thanks. JSL

Under a Strong Wind: The Adventures of Jessie Benton Fremont. Dorothy Nafus Morrison. Ill. with prints and photographs. Atheneum. 176 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-689-31004-8. (A). History reveals itself in this biography. Important events of nineteenth-century America surface as the reader learns the life of an energetic woman. Exploration of the West and the formation of the Republican Party are featured. JB



Full color poster, 17" × 22". Photograph by Bruce Curtis. Typography by Kathleen Westray

Folktales, Legends, Poetry, Graphic Arts

Big Sixteen. Retold by Mary Calhoun. Ill. by Trina Schart Hyman. Morrow. 32 pp. $7.63. ISBN 0-688-02351-7.* (P & I). A storyteller's version of the Southern story of the black folk hero Big Sixteen, so named " 'cause that was the size of his shoe!" So powerful was Big Sixteen that he even killed the Devil, with far-reaching consequences seen forever afterward "if you ever see a light flickerin' down in the swamp at night." Beautifully and lovingly illustrated. LIS

The Faversham. Roy Gerrard. Ill. by the author. Farrar. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-374-32292-9. (P, I & A). An entirely whimsical pictorial representation, with rhymes, of Charles Augustus Faversham in Edwardian England. Children will delight in the dazzling illustrations of Mr. Faversham, whether in his infancy or old age, as he goes from adventures in India to mountain climbing in Switzerland. WHK

The Legend of the Bluebonnet: An Old Tale of Texas. Retold by Tomie dePaola. Ill. by the reteller. Putnam. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-399-20937-9. Paper ed., Putnam. $4.95. ISBN 0-399-20938-7. (P). Blue skies and flower-covered hills provide a colorful background to the tale of an Indian girl who sacrifices her dearest possession to bring rain to save her people. Thus, says the Comanche legend, the beautiful bluebonnet came from an act of pure selflessness. SW

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GET INTO BOOKS

Two-color streamer by Janet Stevens, 22" × 6".

The Magic Stove. Mirra Ginsburg. Ill. by Linda Heller. Coward-McCann. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-698-20566-9. (P & I). This adaptation of a Russian folktale tells the story of an old man, his wife, and their rooster. The three characters enjoy pies from their magic stove until a thieving king comes to visit. How the king is outwitted by the "rooster with the bright comb and the fine curved tail" is at the heart of this tale. JB

The Magic Wings: A Tale from China. Diane Wolkstein. Ill. by Robert Andrew Parker. Unicorn/Dutton. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-525-44062-3. (P). More than anything, the little goose girl wishes to fly in order to see all the flowers of spring. This enchanting Chinese folktale tells of the events that make her wishes come true. Stunning illustrations. Wonderful fare for storytellers young and old; the author has added good Storyteller's Notes. JLS

The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl. Virginia Hamilton. Harper. 320 pp. $11.89. ISBN 0-06-022187-9.* (A). Pretty Pearl, Mother Pearl, and the all-wise John deConquer, the greatest of the god people, come to earth to help a band of black folks journey from Georgia to Ohio after the Civil War. African lore, black folk legends, and history are woven into a spellbinding novel by a master storyteller. SW

Molly Whuppie. Retold by Walter de la Mare. Ill. by Errol Le Cain. Farrar. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-374-35000-0. (P). A delightful retelling, by the late, incomparable Walter de la Mare, of the much-loved folktale of clever Molly Whuppie and her bouts with a ruthless giant. The vivid illustrations enhance the magic and humor of this classic story. A must for the primary audience. JLS

The Month-Brothers: A Slavic Tale. Retold by Samuel Marshak; translated from Russian by Thomas P. Whitney. Ill. by Diane Stanley. Morrow. 32 pp. $10.08. ISBN 0-688-01510-7.* (P & I). This picture book retells a Bohemian tale of a young girl who outwits her cruel stepmother and stepsister with the help of the magic of the Month-Brothers. The book offers young readers the chance to think of tales with similar themes from other parts of the world. JB

Round Trip. Ann Jonas. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow. 32 pp. $7.63. ISBN 0-688-01781-9.* (P, I & A). This creative book helps readers compare and contrast city and country in a format designed to be read front to back, then upside down, back to front. Well-crafted black and white illustrations hold fascinating surprises and give readers an awareness of graphics as a medium of communication. JSW

The Sacred Path: Spells, Prayers and Power Songs of the American Indians. Edited by John Bierhorst. Ill. with drawings. Morrow. 208 pp. $9.50. ISBN 0-688-01699-5. Paper ed., Morrow Quill. $6.95. ISBN 0-688-02647-8. (A). Poetic enhancement and cultural richness pervade this anthology of carefully translated North, Central, and South American Indian spells, prayers, and songs. The selections are creatively organized by themes related to important events or undertakings in life. A large number of them date from 1920--1970, reflecting more recent sources. This scholarly work will appeal to skilled readers and serve as an excellent resource for teachers. There are an Introduction, Notes, Sources, and a Glossary of Tribes, Cultures, and Languages. JC

Sing, Pierrot, Sing: A Picture Book in Mime. Story presentation and ill. by Tomie dePaola. Harcourt. 32 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-15-274988-8. Paper ed., Harcourt (F). (P). Pierrot tries to woo his love Columbine but is hampered and outwitted by the sly Harlequin. The author's illustrations depict the traditional tale brilliantly. Wordless, but introduced with a Storyteller's Note that concludes, "The words, as in all mime, are in the mind of the listener." JLS

The Wish Giver: Three Tales of Coven Tree. Bill Brittain. Ill. by Andrew Glass. Harper. 192 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-06-020687-X.* (I & A). At the annual Coven Tree Church Social, a funny little man, Thaddeus Blinn, appears, offering people who will pay 50¢ to fulfill any wish they might have. Four pay their money and make their wishes, but they overlook another part of what Thaddeus had told them. "Remember, once you ask for it, you can not unwish it." They find that wishes that come true often create problems never planned on. Eerie full-page illustrations add a lot to the book, a funny, suspenseful modern folktale. 1984 Newbery Honor title. LIS

Contemporary Interests, Opportunities, Controversies

Acid Rain. Kathlyn Gay. Watts. 96 pp. $8.90. ISBN 0-531-04682-6. (A). Bringing an historical perspective to the ecological issue of acid rain, this text serves as a resourceful guide and provides differing viewpoints with supporting evidence. JB

Because We Are. Mildred Pitts Walter. Lothrop. 192 pp. $9.50. ISBN 0-688-02287-1. (A). Although Emma is an outstanding student, pressures from her divorced parents, her teachers, and her peer group cause her to rebel. However, out of her defiance a change evolves and she becomes aware of her true place in an uncertain world. A fine, sensitive novel addressing many facets of contemporary Afro-American life. JLS

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Big City Port. Betsy Maestro and Ellen DelVecchio. Ill. by Giulio Maestro. Four Winds. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-590-07869-0. (P). Freighters and tugboats, tankers and liners, loading and unloading, docking and departing. The bustle and business of a city harbor are shown in brief text and poster-bright pictures. SW

The Burg-O-Rama Man. Stephen Tchudi. Delacorte. 190 pp. $13.95. ISBN 0-440-00833-6. Paper ed., Dell. $2.50. ISBN 0-440-90872-8. (A). The Burg-O-Rama fast food chain sends its representative to Crawford High, a typical American high school in a typical American town, to choose five students to star in national television commercials. His arrival turns the school upside down. An excellent contemporary story that deals directly with the advent of fast food places and their cultural and social impact on young people, their values, and their daily living. Must reading, this is a novel that doesn't preach, but presents all sides and is as timely as today's headlines. LIS

Careers in the United States Merchant Marine. Gwenn Boardman Petersen. Ill. with photographs. Lodestar/Dutton. 192 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-525-66910-8. (A). This carefully researched, fact-filled, up-to-date career information book is also a fascinating look at life at sea and on shore in the world of great merchant ships. SW

The Granny Project. Anne Fine. Farrar. 167 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-374-32763-7. (I & A). The four madcap children in an unusual British family attempt to thwart their parents' plan to send their strong-willed, senile grandmother to a nursing home. The descriptions of senility and senile behavior and the family's reactions and interactions are realistic, informative, and often humorous. This family is a rare treat. JC

How to Use Your Community as a Resource. Helen H. Carey and Deborah R. Hanka. Ill. with diagrams and photographs. Watts. 96 pp. $9.40. ISBN 0-531-04675-3. (I & A). This useful and practical source guides students in using people and places in their local communities as resources. Procedures and techniques for interviews, polls, surveys, and in-depth research are outlined. Active student participation is the focus of the book. The title is part of the Social Studies Skills series. Two other recommended titles in the series are *How to Use Computers as a Resource* by Richard A. Diem, ISBN 0-531-04676-1; and *How to Interpret Visual Resources* by Harry Stein, ISBN 0-531-04670-2. JSW

Life On A Fishing Boat: A Sketchbook. Huck Scarry. Ill. by the author. Prentice-Hall. 72 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-13-535856-6. (I & A). Beautifully illustrated and documented, this is an informative book about what it is like to be a commercial fisherman. It details the lives of the fishermen, the fish they catch, and the different types of boats and equipment that they use. Large pencil sketches—captions and labels where useful—bring to life one of our oldest and most essential industries. LIS

The New Americans: Changing Patterns in U.S. Immigration. Brent Ashabranner. Photographs by Paul Conklin. Dodd. 224 pp. $13.95. ISBN 0-396-08140-1. (A). The United States has always been a nation of immigrants, with periods of peak immigration. The nation is facing such a time now, with people entering the United States from widely diverse cultures. This book emphasizes case histories of people seeking a new life and the issues and problems that arise from these changes. WHK

New Road! Gail Gibbons. Ill. by the author. Crowell/Harper. 32 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-690-04343-0.* (P). Brightly colored illustrations and a terse text explain the complex art of road building from the planning stage until the first vehicles go down the pike. The awesome names of the tools and heavy equipment are integrated into the pictures as captions. The book will help teachers in primary career education and will delight curious children. JC

The Nuclear Arms Race—Can We Survive It? Ann E. Weiss. Houghton. 160 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-395-34929-X. (I & A). The history of the post-World War II arms race is traced, with special emphasis on the people involved and the perplexing questions posed by nuclear arms development. Current viewpoints on arms control are presented with objectivity and clarity. Timely and readable. JSW

Politics, Power and People: Four Governments in Action. Thomas Raynor. Watts. 128 pp. $9.90. ISBN 0-531-04662-1. (A). This highly readable book compares the political systems of the United States, United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., and Argentina, explaining how each government developed, how it functions internally and internationally, and how human rights are defined in democracies and authoritarian systems. Excellent addition to any study of current governments. WHK

The Right To Privacy. Stephen Goode. Watts. 160 pp. $9.90. ISBN 0-531-04585-4. (A). Primary sources are used in this well-researched, readable book. The author discusses the historical concept of the right to privacy in the U.S., legal safeguards, and current controversies about the use of technological tools for information gathering, surveillance, etc. He points out that only active concern and discussion of this subject can lead to better safeguards. JC

Sumitra's Story. Rukshana Smith. Coward-McCann. 168 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-698-20579-0. (A). When the Patels emigrate from Uganda to London, young Sumitra is torn between her family's traditional East Indian customs and the freedoms offered by Western society. This well-told story of a girl caught in a conflict of cultures is sympathetically presented. Fiction. SW

Television in American Society. Glenn Alan Cheney. Watts. 96 pp. $8.90. (A). Explores the controversial nature of television, citing recent research and writing in the field. A straightforward book to increase young readers' awareness of social issues involved in television as a medium. JSW

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Understanding Oneself and Others

The Absolutely Perfect Horse. Marylois Dunn with Ardath Mayhar. Harper. 192 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-06-021774-X.* (I). The Braden children have to adapt to a new home and the addition of an adopted Vietnamese brother, as well as a new baby. Annie dreams of owning the absolutely perfect horse. She ends up acquiring Dogmeat, a formerly noble horse now downtrodden. But she and the rest of the family learn to examine their values as a result of the presence of Dogmeat—renamed Chief. RA

All The Living. Claudia Mills. Macmillan 144 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-02-766990-4. (A). During the summer that the Myers family spends in Maine, Karla's adolescent sensitivity to the fact of death, and Jamie's feelings of inadequacy are dealt with through the interactions—humorous, loving, and sometimes angry—of children and parents. A remarkably well-written and well-structured family story. SW

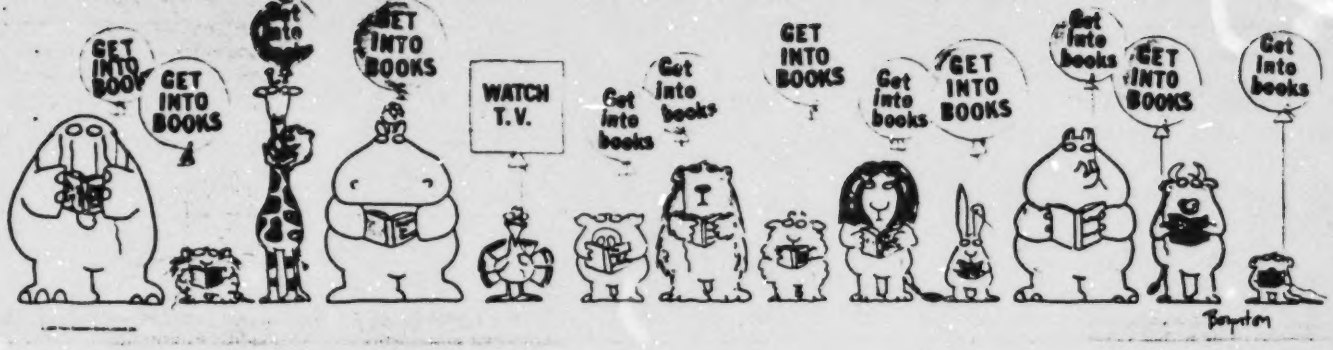
Angel Child, Dragon Child. Michele Maria Surat. Ill. by Vo-Dinh Mai. Carnival/Raintree. 32 pp. $10.99. ISBN 0-940742-12-8. (P). Story of little Ut (pet name for smallest child), whose family has come to the U.S. from Vietnam. Ut has some initial difficulty with her American schoolmates, but finally wins them over through kindness and sensitivity. This realistic and tender story is beautifully illustrated, and will contribute much to the promotion of understanding. RA

Behind the Attic Wall. Sylvia Cassedy. Crowell/Harper. 320 pp. $11.89. ISBN 0-690-04337-6.* (I). Maggie has been thrown out of many boarding schools, and is a scraggly, angry child when she comes to live with her two great-aunts. As Maggie follows the voices she hears, she discovers a world of magic in which she is loved and learns to love. Fanciful story, beautifully told and reminiscent of *The Secret Garden.* RA

The Best Bad Thing. Yoshiko Uchida. McElderry/Atheneum. 132 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-689-50290-7. (I). Rinko, a twelve-year-old Japanese-American girl, discovers that people are not always what they seem and that what appears to be a "bad thing" can sometimes be quite good after all. Set in the 1930s, the novel tells about a Japanese-American family living in California. An excellent story of family relationships and the need to help others. LIS

City Seen from A to Z. Rachel Isadora. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow. $7.63. ISBN 0-688-01803-3.* (P). Creative selection and skillful rendering of children in a wide variety of city settings give this ABC book a unique quality. The reader is drawn into the city. Excellent for comparing and contrasting urban environments. JSW

The Conversation Club. Diane Stanley. Ill. by the author. Macmillan. 32 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-02-786740-4. (P). Peter Fieldmouse flees from the commotion of the local Conversation Club after realizing that, when everyone speaks at once and interrupts one another, nobody hears anything. He forms a Listening Club. Through the process of evolving rules, all the members learn the art of listening. An important message, gently told, with wonderfully charming illustrations. RA



Full color frieze by Sandra Boynton, 32" × 8".

Dan Alone. John Rowe Townsend. Lippincott/Harper. 224 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-397-32054-X.* (I & A). A novel set in an industrial town in England in the 1920s. After his mother abandons him (he has never known his real father), and after some time spent among pickpockets and other scoundrels, young Dan finally finds the real family of his fantasies. A story with a happy ending and delightful echoes of Dickens. ES

The Dram Road. Louise Lawrence. Harper. 224 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-06-023748-1.* (I & A). City punk Stuart Roper has lived a deprived life in Birmingham, England, where he gets involved in an assault on an old man. Thinking he has killed, he flees to the country and finds refuge with old Ted Nelmes. For the first time in his life Stuart belongs and feels loved and valued, and so he begins to experience his own worth and power. Inspiring story of the power of acceptance and love. RA

Everett Anderson's Goodbye. Lucille Clifton. Ill. by Ann Grifalconi. Holt. 24 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-03-063518-7. (P, I & A). Having difficulty accepting his father's death, a young boy works through his grief. The author uses the Kübler-Ross phases as her guides, and in short, moving poems has Everett Anderson articulate his feelings. The poignant illustrations reflect the spirit of the poems admirably. An excellent book for discussions about death with young people of all ages. JB

Frizzy the Fearful. Marjorie Weinman Sharmat. Ill. by John Wallner. Holiday. 32 pp. $8.95. ISBN 0-8234-0475-7. (P). Those readers who enjoyed *Grumley The Grouch* by Ms. Sharmat will also delight in *Frizzy the Fearful.* To a young child, there is much to fear, both real and imagined. Frizzy may help young readers to question their fears. WHK

The Gift. Helen Coutant. Ill. by Vo-Dinh Mai. Knopf. 48 pp. $9.99. ISBN 0-394-95499-8.* (P & I). Anna, a young girl, has difficulty deciding on a gift for her dear friend Nana Marie, an elderly woman who has become blind and has just returned from the hospital. The gift she selects is to describe all the memorable sights she has seen during the day. The story beautifully illustrates the concept of sharing and the nature of true friendship. JB

Gretchen's Grandma. Phyllis Root and Carol A. Marron. Ill. by Deborah Kogan Ray. Carnival/Raintree. 32 pp. $10.99. ISBN 0-940742-16-0. (P). Gretchen's grandma (Oma) comes to visit from Germany and she and Gretchen spend a day together. Although they don't speak the same language, Gretchen makes herself understood to Oma: and they spend a lovely and loving day baking stollen for Dad's birthday, viewing photographs, and visiting the park. The illustrations are a charming accompaniment to this warm and delightful book, which can serve as a satisfying opener to get young children to think about other languages. RA

Winter in the Dark. Monica Hughes. Atheneum. 144 pp. $8.95. ISBN 0-689-30959-7. (I & A). Sensitive story of sixteen-year-old Mike's lone hunt for his trophy white-tail buck. During the days he spends camping and tracking his deer, Mike reflects on his last year's struggle with leukemia and his relationship with his parents and his best friend, Doug. A thoughtful, well-realized story of a boy's coming of age in painful circumstances. RA

Maude and Sally. Nicki Weiss. Ill. by the author. Greenwillow. 32 pp. $8.59. ISBN 0-688-01638-3.* (P). When her best friend Sally goes to summer camp, Maude finds out "best friendship" can extend to more than one person. JB

Mean Chickens and Wild Cucumbers. Nathan Zimelman. Ill. by David Small. Macmillan. 32 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-02-793730-5. (P & I). Aloysius McCarthy and Ivanhoe O'Brien are neighbors. A hole in the fence between their yards, chickens, and cucumbers encourage a feud and a delightful tale illustrating how some people enjoy being one step ahead of their competition. JB

Molly's Pilgrim. Barbara Cohen. Ill. by Michael J. Deraney. Lothrop. 32 pp. $8.59. ISBN 0-688-02104-2.* (I). In doing a Thanksgiving project, Molly's classmates learn that there are modern Pilgrims, like Molly's Jewish family, who come to America from places like Russia or Poland, searching, like the early Pilgrims, for religious freedom and peace. SW

My Friend Leslie: The Story of a Handicapped Child. Maxine B. Rosenberg. Photographs by George Ancona. Lothrop. 48 pp. $8.59. ISBN 0-688-01691-X.* (P & I). Leslie is a kindergarten child with multiple handicaps. Her friend Karin, a non-disabled classmate who explains Leslie's problems in a matter-of-fact, accepting way, is the narrator of this handsome photographic essay. An excellent look at mainstreaming in a classroom and of interest to young people of widely varying ages. ES

My Mama Needs Me. Mildred Pitts Walter. Ill. by Pat Cummings. Lothrop. 32 pp. $8.59. ISBN 0-688-01671-5.* (P). Jason's excitement over his new baby sister soon changes to uncertainty over his own place in the family. His mother reassures him that he is loved and needed, but still free to have his own fun. A comforting story with bold and appealing illustrations for young children who have experienced the displacement that occurs with a sibling's birth. ES

Nadia the Willful. Sue Alexander. Ill. by Lloyd Bloom. Pantheon. 48 pp. $10.99. ISBN 0-394-95265-0.* (P). Fiery-tempered Nadia, daughter of the desert, refuses to let the memory of her lost brother die, as her father has decreed. With dogged persistence, she shows the Sheik and the people that memories of a loved one are not to be forgotten but are to be cherished. JLS

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No More Secrets For Me. Oralee Wachter. Ill. by Jane Aaron. Little, Brown. 48 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-316-914908. (I & A). The straightforward text and the homely, low-key illustrations in this book about a sensitive subject will help adults to help children avoid sexual abuse. Four short stories illustrate possible adult-child sexual encounters and suggest ways for children to cope with them and to seek help. The book could well be considered mystifying to a young child reading it independently and without an adult around with whom to discuss it. JC

Raising a Mother Isn't Easy. Elisabet McHugh. Greenwillow. 160 pp. $9.50. ISBN 0-688-01827-0. (I). The single-parent of a precocious adopted Korean girl is a competent, modern professional woman, a veterinarian. The open relationship of these two and their neighbors will please pubescent girls and provide role models. The dialogue has an appealing naturalness and humor that strengthen the characterizations and the story, which centers mainly on the girl's efforts to find a husband for her mother. JC

The Root Cellar. Janet Lunn. Scribner. 240 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-684-17855-9. (I & A). Twelve-year-old Rose discovers that she can travel back to the 1860s when she climbs through the door of her aunt's root cellar. Exciting time-travel fantasy that is also rich in historical detail, particularly in its portrayal of the part played by Canada in the U.S. Civil War. First published in Canada, where it was named Children's Book of the Year by the Canadian Library Association. ES

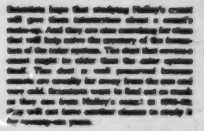
The Scared One. Dennis Haseley. Ill. by Deborah Howland. Warne. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-7232-6185-7. (P). A realistic, sensitive story of a contemporary Indian boy who lives a life of fear and ridicule. However, the mystical powers of his ancient heritage in the form of a wounded eagle reach out to give him faith and courage to face his future. A poetic text and stunning black-and-white illustrations. JLS

Shadows Across the Sun. Albert Likhanov; translated by Richard Lourie. Harper. $10.89. ISBN 0-06-023869-0.* (A). Translated from a recently published Russian novel, the story of a handicapped young girl and her friend Fedya, who raises pigeons in their housing complex, combines the universality of young love and the specific setting of modern Russia's urban life. SW

A Solitary Blue. Cynthia Voigt. Atheneum. 204 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-689-31008 0. Paper ed., Fawcett (F). (A). Jeff Greene made a brief appearance in *Dicey's Song*: this companion novel (not sequel) tells Jeff's story. A remarkable work for its depiction of the development of a character, through ten years of Jeff's family ties, friendships, pain, healing, reaching out, and growing. 1984 Newbery Honor title. ES

T.H.U.M.B. T. Ernesto Bethancourt. Holiday. 160 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-8234-0494-3. (A). In his own language, Tom, a high school student, tells how he and his friend Aurelio concoct a scheme for The Hippest Underground Marching Band in Brooklyn to march in New York's St. Patrick's Day parade. A strong sense of family ties is projected throughout this novel. JB

The Talking Earth. Jean Craighead George. Harper. 160 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-06-021976-9.* (I & A). Story of a thirteen-year-old Seminole Indian girl who lives near the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In an effort to find her own roots, she ventures out alone into the Everglades. Facing fire, hurricanes, and other dangers in the swamp, she discovers that the legends of her ancestors are still very much alive in today's modern world. Takes readers back into time and nature when humans lived close to the earth. LIS



Full color wall chart by Seymour Simon, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky.

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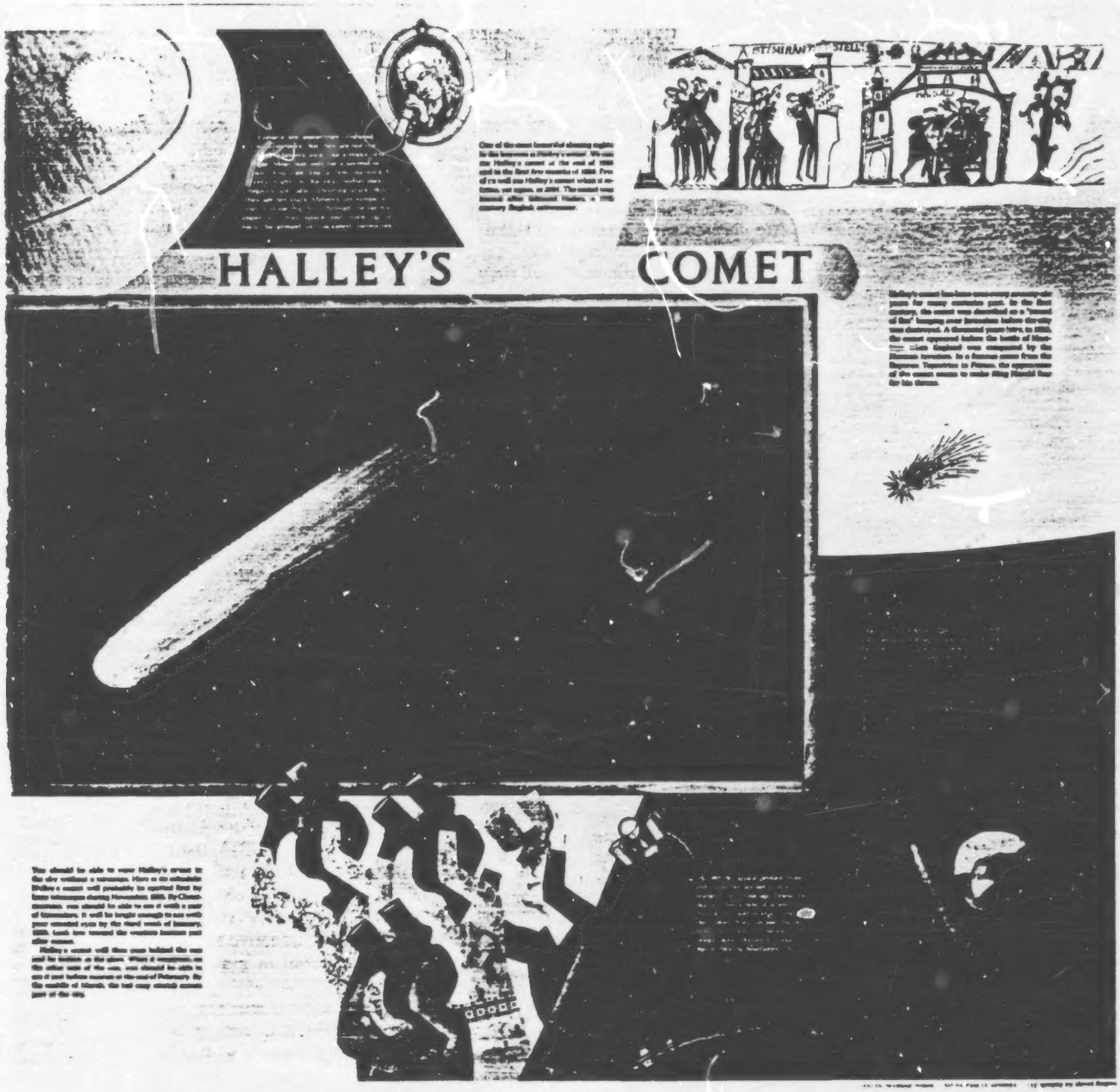
Who Will Take Care of Me? Patricia Hermes. Harcourt. 112 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-15-296265-4. (I). Mark and his younger, retarded brother Pete run away when Mark overhears his aunt talk of sending Pete away to a special school. When Pete disappears, Mark realizes that he cannot be fully responsible for his brother; Pete deserves a chance to become self-sufficient, and Mark needs to be free to live his own life. ES

The Wild Children. Felice Holman. Scribner. 160 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-684-17970-9. (I). Exceptional novel of Alex, whose family is suddenly arrested by soldiers in the Soviet Union after the Bolshevik Revolution. Homeless, Alex joins a band of children who must steal and sleep in human piles in order to survive. Explicit and moving story which reaffirms the tenacity of the human spirit, and also provides information—based on research—on a little-known aspect of life in the U.S.S.R. in the 1920s. RA



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Notable 1984 Children's Trade Books In the Field of Social Studies

THE BOOKS THAT APPEAR in this annual bibliography were evaluated and selected by the Book Review Subcommittee of the National Council for the Social Studies—Children's Book Council Joint Committee. In general, books selected for this bibliography: (1) are written primarily for children in grades K–8; (2) emphasize human relations; (3) present an original theme or a fresh slant on a traditional topic; (4) are highly readable; and when appropriate (5) include maps and illustrations. All titles were published in the United States in 1984. Reading levels are indicated as P = Primary; I = Intermediate; A = Advanced. These levels are general guidelines only and are not meant to be descriptive.

Prices were accurate as of January 1985, but are subject to change. Information on paper editions is given when known. The symbol "F" following a paper edition indicates it is forthcoming. Publishers' names appear in abbreviated form; complete names and addresses are available in such standard reference works as *Literary Market Place* (Bowker). International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) are included; an ISBN followed by an asterisk (*) refers to a publisher's literary-bound edition of the title; a regular trade edition may also be available. Books appropriate for more than one category have been placed where their usefulness in social education appears greatest.

Books Review Subcommittee members are Walter H. Klar, Chairperson (Social Studies Education, Framingham State College, MA); Ruth Anderson (Librarian, Student, Holistic Education, Northboro, MA); Jane Bro... (Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Social Studies Education, University of Washington, Seattle); Janice Cable (Library Media Specialist and Consultant, Oak Bluffs, MA); Laurence I. Seidman (Folksongs in the Classroom, C. W. Post Center, Long Island University, NY); Jeanette L. Sidley (Library Media Specialist and Consultant, Brooklyn, NY); Elizabeth Stoessl (Arlington County, VA, Department of Libraries); Shirley M. Wilton (Professor of Children's Literature, Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ); and Judith S. Wooster (Bureau of Social Studies Education, New York State Education Department, Albany, NY). Their initials appear at the end of the annotations they have written.

American History, Culture and Life

The Black Americans: A History in Their Own Words 1619–1983. Milton Meltzer. Illustrated with photographs. Crowell. 320 pp. $12.89. ISBN 0-069-04418-6.* (A). A one-volume compilation from the highly acclaimed three-volume work, *In Their Own Words*. This revised version, which includes many new selections and traces 350 years of black history, depicts the valiant struggle of a proud people to achieve equality and human dignity. This precisely documented text will serve as a valuable reference tool as well as an eloquent statement of how the struggles of the past have shaped the future. Index. JLS

Caribou. Meg Wolitzer. Greenwillow. 176 pp. $10.25. ISBN 0-688-03991-X. Paper ed., Bantam (F). (A). In 1970, Becca's world changes dramatically when her nineteen-year-old brother goes to Canada to avoid being drafted and sent to Vietnam. Because of his action, she finds herself questioning her own beliefs in this turbulent time. Her actions cause her life to change; nothing will ever be the same. Making choices and wondering if they are the right ones is the timeless theme of this powerful novel. WHK

The Fighting Ground. Avi. Lippincott. 160 pp. $11.89. ISBN 0-397-32074-4.* (I & A). The realities of war shatter thirteen-year-old Johnathan's romantic notions of being a soldier, as he joins a regiment to fight the British in the American Revolution. Vivid details and emotional internal conflict make this a powerful novel. JSW

The First Thanksgiving Feast. Joan Anderson. Photographs by George Ancona. Clarion. 48 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-89919-287-4. (P & I). The photographic recreation of the first Thanksgiving as depicted at Plimouth Plantation, the outdoor living history museum in Massachusetts. The events and impersonations, based on original documentation, are designed to give an accurate picture of life in 1621. Young readers will understand the meaning of Thanksgiving and also learn how the concern and kindness of Indians saved the first settlement. The brilliant black and white photography is substantive and realistic. JLS

Going to School in 1876. John J. Loeper. Illustrated with old prints. Atheneum. 96 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-689-31015-3. (I & A). Personal anecdotes, curious facts and period illustrations give fascinating insight into the lives and lessons of 19th century American school children. This book brings history to life by inviting comparison with the reader's own classroom. SMW

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In the Shadow of the Wind. Luke Wallin. Bradbury/Macmillan. 216 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-02-792320-7. (A). This novel set in 1835 depicts the struggle of the Creek Indians to save their lands from white settlers' greed. Story of two teenagers, a white boy and an Indian girl, who fall in love despite the hatred that is tearing apart their people. Shows that people are not good or bad but complex individuals. LIS

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson. Bette Bao Lord. Illustrated by Marc Simont. Harper. 176 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-06-024004-0.* Paper ed., Harper (F). (I). This is a story of Chinese immigrants in Brooklyn in the late 1940s. The ten-year-old heroine renders a pledge of allegiance to the flag that alone makes this lively story worth reading. It also implicitly points out the continuing need for English as a Second Language programs as it dramatizes the poignancies of assimilation. V HK

Illustration copyright © 1984 by Mark Simont. From Bette Bao Lord's *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, Harper & Row, Publishers.

Photograph copyright © 1984 by Jan Arnow. From Jan Arnow's *Louisville Slugger: The Making of a Baseball Bat*. Used by permission of Pantheon Books, Inc.

Louisville Slugger: The Making of a Baseball Bat. Jan Arnow. Photographs by the author. Pantheon. 40 pp. $11.99. ISBN 0-394-96297-4.* (I & A). A step-by-step fascinating account of the making of a professional baseball bat from the search for the right ash tree, to its final shaping by hand, to the specifications of each individual player. Profusely illustrated with full-page black and white photographs, this book makes the process come alive and tells children about an artifact still made with pride. LIS

The Slopes of War. N. A. Perez. Houghton. 224 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-395-35642-3. (I & A). This fine novel of the Civil War focuses mainly on the four days of the Battle of Gettysburg. Well-drawn characters include some of the military figures from both the North and the South. The tragedy and pathos of war and of this war in particular are realistically portrayed. RA.

Tancy. Belinda Hurmence. Clarion. 216 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-89919-228-9. (A). Sheltered as a favored house slave, Tancy is frightened by a sexual assault—described in graphic detail—by her young master and then disturbed by news of emancipation. Her struggle to make choices in her new life and to understand herself as a free person takes the reader through the Reconstruction Period in the South and teaches the meaning of freedom. SMW

The Tipi: A Center of Native American Life. David and Charlotte Yue. Illustrated by David Yue. Knopf. 96 pp. $10.99. ISBN 0-394-96177-3.* (I & A). A beautifully detailed book about the tipi of the Plains Indians. Profusely and clearly illustrated in black and white, it will help students appreciate how these so-called "primitive savages" lived and adjusted perfectly to their environment. A must book for anyone who wants to understand the Indians. Index. LIS

BEST COPY

To Live in Two Worlds: American Indian Youth Today. Brent Ashabranner. Photographs by Paul Conklin. Dodd. 160 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-396-08321-8. (A). This is another well-documented, consciousness raising book from Ashabranner. He chronicles how individual Indians and tribes have sought to save their heritages and to remain essentially Indian, while confronting the realities of their often harsh life and learning to take a place in the "outside" world. A saga of the meaning of being a minority. Illustrated with black and white photographs. Index. WHK

Truck Song. Diane Siebert. Illustrated by Byron Barton. Crowell. 32 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-690-04411-9.* (P). Vivid illustrations and a rhythmic text describe the transcontinental journey of a truck driver. Readers/listeners get a sense of overland travel and the diverse American landscape it provides. JB

Turn Homeward, Hannalee. Patricia Beatty. Morrow. 208 pp. $10.25. ISBN 0-688-03871-9. (I & A). The fate of twelve-year-old Hannalee Reed and her compatriots, who are forcibly sent north by Yankee soldiers to work in textile mills, is the loom of this tightly woven Civil War novel. Their struggle to survive and to return to the South is the warp. The circumstances of poor white working people during the war is the woof. The rhythm of the language, the believable characterizations and the historical base are the fine fabric of this engrossing story of virtually unknown people and events. JC

World History And Culture

Child of War. Mary Ann Sullivan. Holiday. 136 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-8234-0537-0. (I & A). This disturbingly powerful story tells of the perpetual political struggle in Northern Ireland, told through the eyes of Maeve, a thirteen-year-old confronted first with the death of her mother and then her beloved little brother. Maeve succumbs to her desire for revenge, and, at the same time, retreats into a world of fantasy to protect herself from the tragedies she cannot fully accept. A moving portrayal of the child as a victim of war. RA

Children of the Wolf. Jane Yolen. Viking. 144 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-670-21763-9. (I). This well-told story centers on Mohandas, an orphaned Indian boy, who befriends two wolf-children brought to his orphanage. Based on a missionary's original account of feral children in India in the 1920s, the character of Mohandas was invented but the wolf-girls were allegedly real. Mohandas' exceptional sensitivity to the plight and needs of the girls creates a moving and fascinating novel. RA

Gavriel and Jemal: Two Boys of Jerusalem. Brent Ashabranner. Photographs by Paul Conklin. Dodd. 96 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-396-08455-9. (I & A). Though both are growing up in Jerusalem and they live less than a mile apart, Gavriel and Jemal are separated by the fact that one is a Jewish boy and the other a Palestinian boy. In this powerful photographic account, the author describes the lives of the two boys within their tension-ridden world. The story suggests that the hope for lasting peace ultimately rests with individuals such as these two boys. Index. JSW

A History of Art From 25,000 B.C. to the Present. Marshall B. Davidson. Illustrated with reproductions and photographs. Random. 112 pp. $9.99. ISBN 0-394-95181-6.* Paper ed., Random. $8.95. ISBN 0-394-85181-1. (A). Providing a historical and cultural overview of art from prehistoric through modern eras, this book supplies the reader with a sense of "how" and "what" art communicates. Nearly 200 illustrations of paintings and sculptures enhance the text. An index of artists includes dates and notable achievements of more than 300 artists. Part of the Library of Knowledge series. JB

The Island on Bird Street. Uri Orlev; translated from Hebrew by Hillel Halkin. Houghton. 176 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-395-33887-5. (A). Alex takes up residence in an abandoned building on Bird Street in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, while his resourcefulness and planning secure his safety as he awaits his father's promised return. The important people in Alex's life have helped him to become a caring, loving human being, despite the circumstances brought on by occupation. A fine story of an eleven-year-old's will to survive and remain humane and another look at the hideousness of war. RA

Illustration copyright © 1984 by Lisa Kopper. From Hugh Lewin's *Jafta—The Journey*. Used by permission of Carolrhoda Books, Inc.

Jafta—The Journey. Hugh Lewin. Illustrated by Lisa Kopper. Carolrhoda. 24 pp. $7.95. ISBN 0-87614-265-X.* (P). Jafta, who lives in a small village in South Africa, is full of excitement when his mother and he prepare to take the long journey to town to visit father. They travel by oxcart, a bus crowded with animals, and a ferry pulled by men. A simple story of an appealing little boy with universal charm. Lively sepia illustrations add a special quality. Also recommended is another book in the series of companion volumes by Hugh Lewin, *Jafta—The Town*, ISBN 0-87614-266-8.* JLS

Maroo of the Winter Caves. Ann Turnbull. Clarion. 144 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-89919-304-8. (A). Set in the late Ice Age in the south of France, this is the story of Maroo, a teenage girl, who must save her family from the onslaught of the icy winter. A good adventure story, reminiscent of Scott O'Dell's *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, the book helps readers bridge the gap of thousands of years and provides insight into what life was like in prehistoric times. It also reveals that early people were human beings capable of loving and wanting to protect their families, with fears and desires very similar to our own. LIS

The Samurai's Tale. Erik Christian Haugaard. Houghton. 256 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-395-34559-6. (A). This fast-paced novel of 16th century Japan is narrated by its central character, a four-year-old who is the only survivor of his family when his samurai father is defeated in battle. Taro's story is played out against the backdrop of a complex Japan. WHK

Talking in Whispers. James Watson. Knopf. 160 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-394-96538-8.* Paper ed., Fawcett (F). $2.25. ISBN 0-449-70129-8. (A). This is a powerful, contemporary novel of the Junta in Chile and sixteen-year-old Andres Lareta's resistance and bravery. Andres is aided by twins Isa and Beto in his mission to publicize the revealing photographs of an American journalist. The book offers exceptional characterizations, an exciting story and a poignant portrayal of human oppression. RA

Tikhon. Ilse-Margaret Vogel. Illustrated by the author. Harper. 120 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-06-026329-6.* (I). Tikhon was a young homesick Russian soldier trapped as an illegal alien in Germany after World War II. He was befriended and protected by a German family and developed a firm friendship with the lonely daughter, Inge. A gentle story of a close bond, despite language and cultural differences. One of a series of apparently autobiographical novels about Inge. JSW

Toba. Michael Mark. Illustrated by Neil Waldman. Bradbury/Macmillan. 112 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-02-762300-9. (I & A). Poland in 1913 is seen through the eyes of Toba, the youngest in a family of three girls. The warmth of Jewish family life is sensitively portrayed as Toba's perspective adds a special charm to the everyday occurrences in these nine short stories, beautifully illustrated with black and white charcoal sketches. RA

Illustration copyright © 1984 by Ole Hertz. From Ole Hertz's *Tobias Goes Ice Fishing.* Used by permission of Carolrhoda Books, Inc.

Tobias Goes Ice Fishing. Ole Hertz; translated from the Danish by Tobi Tobias. Illustrated by the author. Carolrhoda. 32 pp. $7.95. ISBN 0-87614-260-9.* (P). Twelve-year-old Tobias lives in a small settlement in Greenland. The author/illustrator, a cultural anthropologist, creates a sensitive portrait of daily family life in a harsh environment. Also recommended are three companion books by Ole Hertz, *Tobias Catches Trout,* ISBN 0-87614-263-2*; *Tobias Goes Seal Hunting,* ISBN 0-87614-262-5*; *Tobias Has A Birthday,* ISBN 0-87614-261-7.* JSW

Walls: Defenses Throughout History. James Cross Giblin. Illustrated with photographs and line drawings. Little. 128 pp. $13.95. ISBN 0-316-30954-0. (I & A). This carefully researched account of walls which have served as defenses discusses little known and many well-known walls, such as the Great Wall of China and the Maginot Line in France, within their historic, political, military and social context. This readable and informative book includes well-chosen photographs, prints and drawings. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. JSW

We Live in China. Sun Jingxiu et al. Illustrated with photographs. Bookwright/Watts. 64 pp. $9.90. ISBN 0-531-04779-2. (I). This book describes the daily life of 28 Chinese citizens categorized by occupation. Written in the first person and illustrated with full color photographs, the book goes well beyond the tourist's view of this huge country. It also includes a page of general information about China, a glossary and an index. Also recommended are four titles in a similar format from the "Living Here" series: *We Live In Britain* by Chris Fairclough, ISBN 0-531-04783-0; *We Live In Denmark* by Ulla Andersen, ISBN 0-531-04782-2; *We Live In New Zealand* by John Ball, ISBN 0-531-04781-4; and *We Live In Spain* by Richard Bristow, ISBN 0-531-04780-6. JSW

Biographies, Autobiographical Accounts

Boy: Tales of Childhood. Roald Dahl. Illustrated with photographs, drawings and old letters. Farrar. 160 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-374-37374-4. (I & A). Dahl's account of his boyhood is filled with people and adventures as strange and wonderful as any he has created. Illustrated with photos from his childhood plus clips of his boyhood letters, this makes a most stylish and satisfying autobiography and is proof that the young may grow up to avenge themselves on their elders. WHK

Breaking Tradition: The Story of Louise Nevelson. Natalie S. Bober. Illustrated with photographs. Atheneum. 176 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-689-31036-6. (I & A). Persevering in the face of adversities, sculptor Louise Nevelson attained her goal to be a recognized artist. This biography takes the reader from Louise's birth in a Russian shtetl, to her childhood in New England, to her study sojourns in Europe. Personal strength and abounding creativity characterize this woman. Endnotes and a listing of Nevelson's exhibits and works mentioned are included. Bibliography. Index. JB

Eleanor Roosevelt, with Love: A Centenary Remembrance. Elliott Roosevelt. Illustrated with photographs. Lodestar. 176 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-525-67147-1. (I & A). "With love" perfectly describes this straightforward chronological biography of Eleanor Roosevelt written by her son, who focuses on her personal and public life during the White House years and after. In the epilogue, he quotes two of the basic principles by which she lived—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and "I am my brother's keeper."—as the sources of her determination and the hope for today's world. There is a short list of autobiographies. Index. JC

From the Door of the White House. Preston Bruce. With the assistance of Katharine Johnson, Patricia Haas and Susan Hainey. Illustrated with photographs. Lothrop. 200 pp. $11.50. ISBN 0-688-00883-6. (I & A). Preston Bruce, the White House doorman during five administrations from Eisenhower to Ford, had close working and sometimes personal relationships with the families he served. His entertaining, discreet memoirs provide a unique inside look at historical events and personalities. Index. ES

Leonardo Da Vinci: The Artist, Inventor, Scientist in Three Dimensional Movable Pictures. Alice and Martin Provensen; paper engineered by John Strejan. Three-dimensional illustrations by the authors. Viking. 12 pp. $14.95. ISBN 0-670-423[illegible]-X. (P, I & A). This glorious pop-up book presents a movable display of Leonardo's inventions and accomplishments in astronomy, metal casting and painting. Ten-year-olds (and others) who ignore art books will relish the clever paper engineering and may even discover what else happened in 1492—the Renaissance! SMW

Margaret Sanger. Elyse Topalian. Illustrated with photographs. Watts. 128 pp. $9.90. ISBN 0-531-04763-6. (A). This excellent biography focuses on the woman who pioneered the birth control movement in the United States. Sanger crusaded for several decades, fighting ignorance, hostility and legal battles to make birth control information and methods available to all women. Index. Another recommended title is *Henry Ford* by Jacqueline L. Harris, ISBN 0-531-04754-7. Both books are part of the Impact Biography series. ES

Our Golda: The Story of Golda Meir. David A. Adler. Illustrated by Donna Ruff. Viking. 64 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-670-53107-3. (I). This anecdotal biography emphasizes the Israeli prime minister's youth and childhood in Russia and America. Readers develop an understanding of how this world leader became a woman who spoke her heart and acted on her convictions as she pursued her goal of "shalom," peace. JB

Illustration copyright © 1984 by Leigh Grant from Robert Franklin Leslie's *Ringo, the Robber Racoon: The True Story of a Northwoods Rogue*, Dodd, Mead & Co., Inc.

Ringo, the Robber Raccoon: The True Story of a Northwoods Rogue. Robert Franklin Leslie. Illustrated by Leigh Grant. Dodd. 144 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-396-08323-4. (I & A). While in the wilds of British Columbia in search of "Big Foot," the author makes the intimate acquaintance of a raccoon and a black bear. Interwoven with the true story of his relationships with these carefully described animals is a great appreciation, love and understanding of nature and ecology. This is also the story of the survival of a man and an animal in the wilderness. JC

Space Challenger: The Story of Guion Bluford. Jim Haskins and Kathleen Benson. Illustrated with photographs. Carolrhoda. 64 pp. $8.95. ISBN 0-87614-259-5.* (P & I). This biography of Guion Bluford, Ph.D. in aerospace engineering and laser physics, centers on the first black American in space. Personal interviews are included along with details of the preparation for the August 1983 space shuttle mission. Glossary. Index. JSW

Folktales, Myths and Legends, Storytelling

Illustration copyright © 1984 by Charles Mikolaycak from *Babushka* retold by Charles Mikolaycak. Used by permission of Holiday House, Inc.

Babushka. Retold by Charles Mikolaycak. Illustrated by the reteller. Holiday. 32 pp. $14.95. ISBN 0-8234-0520-6. (P). Vivid colors and intricate patterns of cloth and costume are richly illustrated in this eastern European Christmas tale of the wandering Babushka, continually seeking the Christ child and leaving the scent of cinnamon and a gift in every child's nursery as she passes. A splendid retelling of a traditional story. SMW

Birdsong. Gail E. Haley. Illustrated by the author. Crown. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-517-55051-2. (P & I). Birdsong, an orphaned waif, is tricked into playing her pipes to lure birds into cages by the greedy Jorinella. When Jorinella's plan is revealed, Birdsong's love for her feathered friends moves her to come to their rescue, and they, in turn, come to hers. Large attractive illustrations accompany the lovely story which has excellent read-aloud potential. RA

Buffalo Woman. Paul Goble. Illustrated by the author. Bradbury/Macmillan. 32 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-02-737720-2. (P, I & A). Based on legends of Indians of the Great Plains, this book tells the story of a young hunter who marries a female buffalo in the form of a beautiful maiden. When his people reject her, he must pass several tests before being allowed to join the buffalo nation. Concepts of the connection between the human and animal world and the transfiguring power of love are emphasized. JB

Fat Gopal. Jacquelin Singh. Illustrated by Demi. HBJ. 48 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-15-227372-7. (P & I). The Maharajah gives his jester, Fat Gopal, an impossible task to perform or lose his head. Beautifully illustrated with full-color paintings and black and white drawings. All children can relate to this Indian folktale and enjoy the humor and satisfaction of a poor man who outsmarts a rich and powerful one. LIS

The Frog Princess. Retold by Elizabeth Isele. Illustrated by Michael Hague. Crowell. 32 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-690-04218-3.* (P). This Russian folktale, illustrated in Hague's now-familiar style, describes how Ivan, the youngest son of the Czar, is forced to marry an ugly frog. Ivan, astounded to learn the frog is really a beautiful princess, must experience trials and tribulations in his search to reclaim her. Patience reigns as a virtue. JB

The Hungry Woman: Myths and Legends of the Aztecs. Edited by John Bierhorst. Illustrated with drawings. Morrow. 160 pp. $9.50. ISBN 0-688-02766-0. (A). This remarkable collection of Aztec folktales was recorded in the 16th century. The creation myths, stories of the founding of Mexico and of the coming of Cortes are illustrated with ancient Aztec drawings. Together, words and pictures show the pride and passion, the savagery and sadness of a once-great people. A pronunciation key, a guide to special terms, endnotes and a reference section of mainly Mexican sources conclude the text. SMW

Meet the Witches. Georgess McHargue. Illustrated with photographs and drawings. Lippincott. 128 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-397-32072-8.* (I & A). Who are the real witches? Through careful research and colorful descriptions, McHargue brings them back alive: the classical enchantresses, witches of folk and fairy tale, victims of 16th century witch hunts and practitioners of modern witchcraft. This high interest informational book reflects a strong sense of history. Index. Part of the publisher's The Eerie Series. SMW

Monkey and the White Bone Demon. Adapted by Zhang Xiu Shi; translated from the Chinese by Ye Ping Kuei and revised by Jill Morris. Illustrated by Lin Zheng at al. Viking. 36 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-670-48574-8. (I & A). The stunning illustrations by contemporary Chinese artists leap from the pages of this adaptation for children of an episode from a 16th century Chinese novel. In a quest for ancient Buddhist scriptures, Monkey helps his companions, a monk, Pigsy and Sandy, escape capture by the White Bone Demon. There are familiar traditional folklore themes of quest, entrapment, escape and the triumph of good over evil. The visual substance should be useful in any study of China. It is of some interest that the work, adapted from the novel *The Pilgrimage to the West* by Wu Cheng En, was published in association with Liaoning Fine Arts Publishing House, China. JC

The Mysterious Giant of Barletta. Retold by Tomie dePaola. Illustrated by the reteller. HBJ. 32 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-15-256347-4. (P & I). Everyone in Barletta loved the giant—a statue, of course—that stood in the church square. When the town is threatened by an invading army, the townspeople depend on the giant to be their champion. The clever giant does not disappoint them and with a simple trick, the town is saved. A charming adaptation of an Italian legend enlivened with magnificent bold full-color illustrations to delight those who believe in giants and such. JLS

Illustration copyright © 1984 by Mark Brown from *Oh, Kojo! How Could You!* retold by Verna Aardema. Used by permission of Dial Books for Young Readers.

Oh, Kojo! How Could You! Retold by Verna Aardema. Illustrated by Mark Brown. Dial. 32 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-8037-0007-5. * (P & I). This wonderfully amusing Ashanti folktale offers humor, magic, adventure and mischief. Ananse is up to his usual tricks. This time his victim is Kojo, a magic child. In the end, of course, Kojo wins with the help of the cat that is ever after welcome in Ashanti homes. The author's style and her use of onomatopoeia are just right. The stylish, peppy, colorful paintings were influenced by West African cave paintings. JC

Spirit Child: A Story of the Nativity. Retold by John Bierhorst; translated from the Aztec by the reteller. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney. Morrow. 32 pp. $11.04. ISBN 0-688-02610-9.* (P, I & A). This exceptional book combines Barbara Cooney's magnificent illustrations with a carefully researched native American interpretation of Jesus' birth, translated by John Bierhorst from the Aztec text *Psalmodia Christiana* (1583). JSW

The Story Vine: A Source Book of Unusual and Easy-to-Tell Stories From Around the World. Anne Pellowski. Illustrated by Lynn Sweat. Macmillan. 128 pp. $14.95. ISBN 0-02-770590-0. Paper ed., Macmillan. $7.95. ISBN 0-02-044690-X. (P, I & A). This source book contains "unusual and easy-to-tell stories from around the world." Many of the stories involve the audience with string figures, musical instruments and finger play. The book includes diagrams to aid visual presentation, bibliographies for the stories included, suggestions for storytellers and further reading selections. It may be used as a read-aloud book with younger children and independently by older readers. JSW

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse. Retold by Lorinda Bryan Cauley. Illustrated by the reteller. Putnam. 32 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-399-21123-3. Paper ed., Putnam. $4.95. ISBN 0-399-21126-8. (P). An old favorite newly and beautifully presented. When a town mouse and a country mouse exchange visits, they come to realize how different living styles match different needs and preferences. Illustrations and descriptions project settings of the wholesome countryside and the luxurious surroundings of a Victorian home. JB

Illustration by Roy Gerrard from *Sir Cedric*. Copyright © 19[illegible] Roy Gerrard. Used by permission of Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc.

Poetry And Rhyme

Grandparents' Houses. Selected by Corrine Streich. Illustrated by Lillian Hoban. Greenwillow. 32 pp. $11.47. ISBN 0-688-03895-6.* (P, I & A). Fifteen poems selected by the author from many cultures emphasize the universality of family bonds. The Hoban illustrations complement the poems in this sensitive collection. JSW

Mary Had a Little Lamb. Sarah Hosepha Hale. Illustrated by Tomie dePaola. Holiday. 32 pp. $13.95. ISBN 0-8234-0509-5. Paper ed., Holiday. $5.95. ISBN 0-8234-0519-2. (P). Children will enjoy this familiar story, boldly illustrated in a manner befitting the 19th century mood. Mary had a little lamb, true, and this edition explains clearly why it followed her and why children should be kind to all animals. The book includes all six stanzas of the original poem, some historical context and accompanying music. WHK

The Microscope. Maxine Kumin. Illustrated by Arnold Lobel. Harper. 32 pp. $9.89. ISBN 0-06-023524.* (P, I & A). While this rhymed verse is intended for the young, it could be a valuable aid when introducing microscopes to older children. The text—and most specifically the illustrations—recreate for children Leewenhoek's world, both the larger one of 17th century Holland and the small one that led him to perfect the instrument. WHK

Secrets of a Small Brother. Richard J. Margolis. Illustrated by Donald Carrick. Macmillan. 40 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-02-762280-0. (P & I). This is a collection of short poems about a boy and his brother told from the viewpoint of the younger brother. Most children, both boys and girls, can relate to these poems and identify with the frustration, pride, humor and love expressed in their ever changing relationship. Donald Carrick's black and white illustrations capture the very essence of each poem. LIS

Sir Cedric. Roy Gerrard. Illustrated by the author. Farrar. 32 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-374-36959-3. (P, I & A). The round-headed, short-bodied knights and ladies, and the intricate patterns, detailed landscapes and authentic castles in this picture book about medieval days will please any child. The romantic tale of Sir Cedric and his sweet Matilda is told in rollicking rhyme. SMW

Waiting to Waltz: A Childhood. Cynthia Rylant. Illustrated by Stephen Gammell. Bradbury/Macmillan. 48 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-02-778000-7. (I & A). In this collection of thirty poems in varied moods, the narrator recalls the events, friendships and wonderful assortment of local characters that were part of her growing up and coming of age in a small town in Appalachia. The book is accompanied by evocative, full-page, black and white pencil drawings. ES

Contemporary Interests, Controversies

Captives in a Foreign Land. Susan Lowry Rardin. Houghton. 240 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-395-36216-4. (I & A). Six children of delegates to an international nuclear arms control conference are kidnapped and held hostage by a Middle Eastern terrorist group pleading for unilateral disarmament by the United States. A tense, exciting adventure story as well as a provocative discussion vehicle, this novel provides an excellent depiction of the ambiguities that can arise in a relationship between captor and captive. ES.

The Fragile Flag. Jane Langton. Harper. 224 pp. $11.89. ISBN 0-06-023699-X.* Paper ed., Harper (F). (I). This exceptional novel tells of Children's Crusade to Washington, which becomes 16,000 strong, to protest the launching of the "Peace Missile" into space. A timely and much-needed fable, this book tells all children and the "children" within all adults that they can make a difference! RA

The Insanity Plea. Edward F. Dolan, Jr. Watts. 112 pp. $9.90. ISBN 0-531-04756-3. (A). This Impact book explains the history and current status of the insanity plea as well as public opinion surrounding this controversial issue. Bibliography. Index. JSW

The Nuclear Freeze Movement. Judith Pentley. Illustrated with photographs and charts. Watts. 128 p. $9.90. ISBN 0-531-04772-5. (A). This work offers a thoughtful, comprehensive treatment of the freeze movement, its history and growth, and its adherents and opponents. It portrays the persons and groups active in the movement, demonstrating that individuals can make a difference. An Impact book. A list of organizations and sources of further information are included. Bibliography. Glossary. Index. ES

Violence in America. Stephen Goode. Messner. 288 pp. $9.79. ISBN 0-671-45810-8.* (A). This book deals with many different facets of violence in America from the coming of the first settlers to modern times. It also asks why we are such a violent nation, but rather than answer the question, the author makes readers think for themselves. Bibliography. Index. LIS

Winners and Losers: How Elections Work in America. Jules Archer. Illustrated with photographs and political cartoons. HBJ. 240 pp. $13.95. ISBN 0-15-297945-X. (A). Aside from teaching how our political system works, this book will excite young readers about the necessity of becoming involved. A potentially dull topic is written with genuine enthusiasm. Through the author's well-researched text, readers come away better able to argue and judge the political process for themselves. This is a must addition to any serious study of American politics. WHK

Understanding Oneself and Others

Alexandra. Scott O'Dell. Houghton. 160 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-395-35571-0. Paper ed., Fawcett (F). (A). O'Dell weaves a taut, contemporary story set in a community of Greek sponge fishermen in southern Florida. A strong-willed girl, the craft of the sponge divers and the reality of drug traffic from the Caribbean produce an exciting novel of romance and moral courage. SMW

The Atami Dragons. David Klass. Scribner. 144 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-684-18223-8. (A). During a summer in Japan, Jerry becomes a friend and teammate of a group of Japanese high school baseball players. Their common love for baseball breaks down language and cultural barriers. Simultaneously during their sojourn in Japan, Jerry, his younger sister and their father work through their grief over the mother's death and come to accept the new family structure. ES

Alfie Gives a Hand. Shirley Hughes. Illustrated by the author. Lothrop. 32 pp. $7.63. ISBN 0-688-02387-8.* (P). Alfie's first birthday party is a bit frightening without the presence and support of his mom and sister, Annie Rose. Though Alfie's security blanket provides the comfort he needs, as he joins the festivities he discovers that he can do without it. A nursery school birthday party is realistically portrayed with humor and mischief. Charming illustrations. RA

Always, Always. Crescent Dragonwagon. Illustrated by Arieh Zeldich. Macmillan. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-02-733080-X. (P). A present-day child of divorced parents spends part of the year with each of them. Her mother is a New York City person and her father is of the Colorado woods. They each help her understand that despite their ill-fated marriage, they both love her. The gentle black and white drawings suit the low-key, honest tenor of the sensitive story with which many children will, or will wish they could, empathize. JC

Badger's Parting Gifts. Susan Varley. Illustrated by the author. Lothrop. 24 pp. $10.08. ISBN 0-688-02703-2.* (P). The book is a wonderfully comforting statement about dying and accepting the death of someone close to you. When dependable, reliable old Badger dies, his friends are comforted and their great grief is assuaged with loving remembrances of the special thoughtful things he did for them. The illustrations sensitively support the mood and events of the text. The first book by this English author/illustrator is a reminder of and worthy successor to Ernest H. Shepard's *The Wind in the Willows.* JC

CF in His Corner. Gail Radley. Four Winds/Macmillan. 144 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-02-777390-6. (I & A). When Jeff learns that his younger brother, Scotty, has cystic fibrosis, he feels Scotty should be told the truth about his disease. Defying his mother, who Jeff feels evades and denies the reality of the disease, Jeff tells Scotty. Though Scotty is ultimately relieved to know the truth, Jeff realizes the issue is more complex than he had realized in this realistic well-researched novel. ES

Chin Chiang and the Dragon's Dance. Ian Wallace. Illustrated by the author. Atheneum. 32 pp. $9.95. ISBN 0-689-50299-0. (P & I). Chin Chiang's grandfather has been training him to perform the ancient dragon dance in the New Year's Day parade. As the time approaches, however, Chin Chiang becomes more and more scared that he will be clumsy and bring shame and bad luck to all. He decides to run away and hide, but is found by Pu Yee who helps to make his dreams come true. This appealing story, which unites the generations, is enhanced by brilliant paintings of great delicacy. JLS

Illustration by Ian Wallace from *Chin Chiang and the Dragon's Dance.* Copyright © 1984 by Ian Wallace. Used by permission of Atheneum Publishers.

Circle of Gold. Candy Dawson Boyd. Paper ed., Apple. 128 pp. $1.95. ISBN 0-590-32464-0. (I). Mattie wants to buy her unhappy mother a special gift for Mother's Day, hoping to regain the love and unity shared by the family before the death of her father. Despite her best efforts, problems at school and at home become overwhelming. Finally, Mattie learns the meaning of love and understanding through a simple miracle. A sensitive, poignant story of contemporary family life. JLS

An End to Perfect. Suzanne Newton. Viking. 216 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-670-29487-X. Paper ed., Puffin (F). (I). Arden loves her idyllic small town and her "perfect" family. When her best friend DorJo runs away from her squalid home and abusive mother, Arden thinks that DorJo's problems will vanish if she becomes part of Arden's family. DorJo's bonds to her own family prove to be far stronger than either girl had realized. This is an exceptional novel about friendship and family ties. ES

Fly Free. C. S. Adler. Coward. 160 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-698-20606-1. (I & A). Thirteen-year-old Shari, verbally and physically abused by her unhappy mother finds solace in her relationships with Zeke, her loving but frequently absent father, and Peter, the younger brother who is left in her care. Angry at Shari after Peter is hurt, Shari's mother reveals that Zeke is not Shari's real father. An older, caring neighbor helps Shari to understand and to begin to accept her mother. ES

How My Parents Learned to Eat. Ina R. Friedman. Illustrated by Allen Say. Houghton. 32 pp. $12.95. ISBN 0-395-35379-3. (P). A young Japanese-American girl tells the story of her parents' courtship. An American sailor stationed in Japan learns to use chopsticks to impress the Japanese student he loves, while she is determined, for his sake, to master the knife and fork. Their daughter now enjoys both ways of eating. Delicate, muted full-page illustrations catch the spirit of the text exceedingly well. ES

I Know a Lady. Charlotte Zolotow. Illustrated by James Stevenson. Greenwillow. 24 pp. $9.55. ISBN 0-688-03838-7.* Paper ed., Puffin (F). (P). Love, sharing, caring and the continuity of life are the topics of this very special book. Every boy and girl should have this archetypal old lady on their block to call them by name and wave to them; to make candy apples for Halloween, cookies for Christmas and little cakes for Easter; to give them flowers; and to be remembered. The text is perfectly simple and the illustrations are perfectly lovely. JC

Jim's Dog Muffins. Miriam Cohen. Illustrated by Lillian Hoban. Greenwillow. 32 pp. $9.55. ISBN 0-688-02565-X.* Paper ed., Dell (F). (P). Jim is mourning the death of his dog, Muffins, and although his classmates try to help, he cannot respond to them. Finally, his friend Paul, simply by being there, helps Jim to cry and laugh and speak of Muffins in this sensitive, simple story of a young boy's grief. RA

Life • Is • Not • Fair. Gary W. Bargar. Clarion. 180 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-899[illegible]218-1. (A). Set in Kansas in 1959, this story describes the relationship between two male junior high school students: one black and one white. Despite struggles with peer pressure and social attitudes, both individuals work hard to nurture their friendship. Both young men come to recognize that Life. Is. Not. Fair. JB

Like Jake and Me. Mavis Jukes. Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. Knopf. 32 pp. $11.99. ISBN 0-394-95608-7.* (P). A father and his stepson learn to accept each other and enjoy their new family in this low-key, sensitive and amusing story. The book, illustrated in full page pastels with splash and panache, is a good read-aloud selection. WHK

Mine for a Year. Susan Kuklin. Photographs by the author. Coward. 80 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-698-20603-7. (I & A). George, a twelve-year-old foster child, is given a Labrador pup to train for a year. At the end of that time, the puppy will be taken from George for advanced training as a seeing-eye dog. The story is particularly absorbing and realistic because George has trouble with his eyes and may one day go blind. This book will touch and affect children and teach them about giving to others and learning how to share and trust. It is illustrated with large black and white photographs. LIS

Music, Music for Everyone. Vera B. Williams. Illustrated by the author. Greenwillow. 32 pp. $10.51. ISBN 0-688-02604-4.* (P). The empty, big red chair that grandma is now too ill to sit in and the almost-empty money jar spark Rosa's idea. Together, she and her friends, Jenny, Leora and Mae, become the Oak Street Band. The story tells of a family and neighborhood where people love and care about each other. It is beautifully illustrated with rich, full-page color illustrations. LIS

One-Eyed Cat. Paula Fox. Bradbury/Macmillan. 224 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-02-735540-3. (A). Characterization is the key to the appeal of this fine story of a 1930s family. Ned, having fired a gun against his father's wishes, must bear the weight of guilt and make amends by caring for the cat he wounded. His father's love, the sensitivity of his invalid mother and of an elderly neighbor as well as Ned's own sense of responsibility inform this splendid novel by a superb stylist. SMW

The Present Takers. Aidan Chambers. Harper. 160 pp. $10.89. ISBN 0-06-021252-7.* (I & A). Eleven-year-old Lucy Hall is the most recent victim of Melanie Prosser and her gang of female bullies in a compelling English school story with a novel twist. The selection provides good characterizations, even though some of the characters seem closer to *Clockwork Orange* than to children's literature. JC

Illustration by David McPhail from *Sisters*. Copyright © 1984 by David McPhail. Used by permission of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.

Sisters. David McPhail. Illustrated by the author. HBJ. 32 pp. $10.95. ISBN 0-15-275219-2. (P). This picture book shows how sisters, though alike in many ways, also have differences. The pen and ink illustrations and text effectively reflect how individual likes and differences can generate love. The portrayals in both words and pictures are realistic and reassuring. JB

Someone Special, Just Like You. Tricia Brown. Photographs by Fran Ortiz. Holt. 64 pp. $11.95. ISBN 0-03-069706-9. (P). Using full-page spreads of large black and white photographs and simple text, this book provides an avenue for readers to better understand how acceptance of other individuals need not be based on physical appearance and handicapping conditions. Young and old alike, despite their disabilities, possess special qualities. An annotated bibliography of books for adults and children by Effie Lee Morris provides a helpful resource. JB □